



Statute of the Jan Opletal Awards

Article 1 Jan Opletal Awards

1. The Student Chamber of the Council of Higher Education Institutions (hereinafter “SK RVŠ”), in cooperation with the association Díky, že můžem, z. s., presents the Jan Opletal Awards (hereinafter the “Awards”) every year on the anniversary of Jan Opletal’s death and on the occasion of International Students’ Day.
2. The Awards are presented to individuals in three categories:
 - a. To a student of a higher education institution, for**
 - i. an exceptional contribution to the development of the academic community,
 - ii. defence of academic rights and freedoms,
 - iii. strengthening of students’ rights and freedoms,
 - iv. a significant contribution to the fight against injustice, for equal treatment and opportunities, or against any form of discrimination at a higher education institution.
 - b. To a student of a secondary school, for**
 - i. an exceptional contribution to the development of the school environment,
 - ii. defence and strengthening of students’ rights and freedoms,
 - iii. a significant contribution to the fight against injustice, for equal treatment and opportunities, or against any form of discrimination at a secondary school.
 - c. To a personality under 30, for**
 - i. civic engagement in the field of promoting democracy and freedom,
 - ii. promotion and defence of human rights, the fight against injustice, for equal treatment and opportunities, or against any form of discrimination,
 - iii. public awareness-raising and volunteering,
 - iv. other socially beneficial activities.



Article 2 **Submission of Nominations**

1. Nominations for the Award may be submitted by natural and legal persons.
2. The call for nominations for the Award is announced by the President of SK RVŠ at least 4 months before the Award is presented. The call is published without delay on the websites of the Awards, of SK RVŠ and of Díky, že můžem, z.s. At the same time, a deadline for the submission of nominations is set, so that the collection period lasts at least 2 months.
3. Nominations are submitted to the Award Committee (hereinafter the “Committee”) through the secretary of SK RVŠ or another person authorised by the President of SK RVŠ.
4. A nomination for the Award must contain:
 - a. the name of the nominee,
 - b. a brief justification of why the Award should be presented to the nominee,
 - c. an example of the nominee’s activities,
 - d. the nominee’s consent to the nomination, and contact details for the nominee and the nominator.
5. Nominations for the Award, including the identity of the nominator, are published without undue delay after the end of the collection period on the website of the Awards. Multiple nominations of the same person are published as a single nomination, listing all nominators and their justifications.
6. A current or former member of SK RVŠ or of Díky, že můžem, z.s. may not be nominated until a period of two years has elapsed from the end of their membership as of the date of submission of the nomination.

Article 3 **Award Committee**

1. A Committee is hereby established, headed by the Head of the Committee.
2. The Head of the Committee is appointed by the President of SK RVŠ following approval by an SK RVŠ Board meeting. As a rule, this is the more senior of the members elected pursuant to Article 3(3)(b).
3. The other members of the Committee are appointed by the President of SK RVŠ according to the following key:



- a. the laureates of the previous edition of the Awards, subject to their consent,
 - b. two members of SK RVŠ, on the basis of a secret ballot at an SK RVŠ Board meeting,
 - c. two members of Díky, že můžem, z.s., on the basis of a secret ballot at a meeting of Díky, že můžem, z.s.,
 - d. one member from among prominent figures representing the higher education environment, elected by an SK RVŠ Board meeting,
 - e. two members from among prominent figures representing civil society, elected by an SK RVŠ Board meeting,
 - f. one member from among figures representing the secondary school environment, elected by a meeting of Díky, že můžem, z.s.,
 - g. two members from among prominent figures representing civil society, elected by a meeting of Díky, že můžem, z.s.
4. Meetings of the Committee are convened and chaired by the Head of the Committee.
 5. Membership of the Committee is incompatible with the office of President of SK RVŠ, President of Díky, že můžem, z.s., secretary, or the person authorised to administer the nominations. Alternates may also be elected for the members elected by an SK RVŠ Board meeting and by a meeting of Díky, že můžem, z.s. The same applies mutatis mutandis to the Head of the Committee. The President of SK RVŠ appoints an alternate or a new member to a vacant seat in accordance with the procedure under Article 3(3).
 6. The Committee has a quorum if a majority of all its members is present.
 7. Membership of the Committee is an honorary office and expires upon the presentation of the Awards.
 8. Membership of the Committee further expires upon death, upon termination of membership in Díky, že můžem, z.s. in the case of members under Article 3(3)(c), and upon termination of membership in SK RVŠ in the case of members under Article 3(3)(b).



Article 4 Review Commission

1. A Review Commission (hereinafter the “Commission”) is hereby established, headed by the President of SK RVŠ.
2. The other members of the Commission are appointed by the President of SK RVŠ according to the following key:
 - a. three members of SK RVŠ, on the basis of a secret ballot at an SK RVŠ Board meeting,
 - b. three members of Díky, že můžem, z.s., on the basis of a secret ballot at a meeting of Díky, že můžem, z.s.
3. Meetings of the Commission are convened and chaired by the President of SK RVŠ.
4. Membership of the Commission expires upon death, upon termination of membership in Díky, že můžem, z.s. in the case of members under Article 4(2)(b), and upon termination of membership in SK RVŠ in the case of members under Article 4(2)(a).

Article 5 Presentation of the Award

1. The Committee decides on the laureates at two meetings, with an interval of at least 14 days between the first and the second meeting of the Committee.
2. At its first meeting, the Committee elects 3 finalists in each category, ranked by the number of votes received in a secret ballot. Each member of the Committee has exactly three votes in each category. If more than one candidate stands in the last qualifying place, all such candidates advance.
3. At its second meeting, the Committee presents the Award in each category pursuant to paragraph 4.
4. Presentation of the Award
 - a. The Award is presented if, at a meeting of the Committee:
 - i. In the first round of the secret ballot, one of the finalists receives a majority of the votes of all members of the Committee. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes of all members of the Committee, a second round follows, to which the two candidates with the highest number of votes advance. If more than one candidate received the highest number of votes, all such candidates advance.



- ii. In the second round of the secret ballot, a candidate receives a majority of the votes of the members of the Committee present. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes of all members of the Committee, a third round follows, to which the two candidates with the highest number of votes advance. In the event of a tie, lots decide.
 - iii. In the third round of the secret ballot, the Award is won by the candidate who received the highest number of votes of the members of the Committee present. In the event of a tie, the Head of the Committee decides.
5. Information on the presentation of the Awards is published on the websites of the Awards, of SK RVŠ and of Díky, že můžem, z.s.
6. The administration connected with the meetings of the Committee, the presentation of the Award and its promotion is provided by the secretary of SK RVŠ or another person authorised by the President of SK RVŠ.
7. The Awards are presented as a rule on 11 November, that is, on the anniversary of Jan Opletal's death.

Article 6

Withdrawal of the Award

1. The Jan Opletal Award may exceptionally be withdrawn if, after its presentation, it comes to light that the laureate:
 - a. has engaged in conduct grossly contrary to the values on which the Award is based, in particular the principles of democracy, the protection of human rights, equal treatment, academic freedoms or the fight against injustice, or
 - b. has engaged in seriously unethical, unlawful or otherwise socially harmful conduct capable of significantly damaging the good name of the Award, of SK RVŠ or of the association Díky, že můžem, z. s., or
 - c. it has been demonstrated that the Award was presented on the basis of untrue, incomplete or misleading information that was material to the decision to present the Award.
2. A motion to open proceedings on the withdrawal of the Award may be submitted by a natural or legal person, in writing and stating specific reasons, through the secretary of SK RVŠ or another person authorised by the President of SK RVŠ.



3. The withdrawal of the Award is decided by the Commission at a duly convened meeting. Before taking its decision, the Commission is obliged to:
 - a. inform the laureate of the reasons for which the withdrawal of the Award is proposed,
 - b. allow the laureate to comment on the supporting documents within a reasonable period, which must not be shorter than 14 days,
 - c. assess all relevant facts, having regard to the principle of proportionality and to the presumption of good faith.
4. A decision on the withdrawal of the Award is adopted by secret ballot and requires the consent of at least five members of the Commission.
5. In the event of a decision on the withdrawal of the Award, the laureate is obliged to:
 - a. refrain from any further use of the designation “laureate of the Jan Opletal Award”,
 - b. return the physical award upon request, if one was presented.
6. In the event of a decision on the withdrawal of the Award, the laureate is excluded from participation in the next edition of the Awards within the meaning of Article 3(3)(a).

Article 7 **Transitional and Final Provisions**

1. The competence of the Review Commission to decide on the withdrawal of the Awards applies for the first time to Awards presented in 2026.
2. This Statute is an internal regulation of the Student Chamber of the Council of Higher Education Institutions.
3. This Statute takes effect on 1 April 2026 and simultaneously repeals the Statute of 1 April 2024.